

United States District Court

DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

GUILLERMO FREDERICO VASCO

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

CASE NUMBER: 05-mj-00006-LTS

(Name and Address of Defendant)

I, the undersigned complainant being duly sworn state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. On or about April 1 to May 17, 2005 in Essex county, in the

 District of Massachusetts defendant(s) did, (Track Statutory Language of Offense)

use the mail and a facility of interstate commerce with intent that a murder be committed in violation of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and as consideration for the receipt of, and promise and agreement to pay, money and other items of pecuniary value

in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section(s) 1958(a)

I further state that I am a(n) ATF Special Agent and that this complaint is based on the following
Official Title

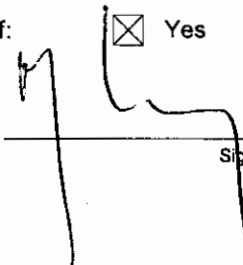
facts:

See attached affidavit of Matthew O'Shaughnessy

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part hereof:

☒ Yes

☐ No



Signature of Complainant

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence,

06-03-2005

Date

at

Boston, MA

City and State

LEO T. SOROKIN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Name & Title of Judicial Officer



Signature of Judicial Officer

VASCO states, among other things:

I've heard that our friends and their doggy Nickie will take a trip down there, Ah? That would be great if you could help them. But Nickie is very old and sick. She won't survive such trip ... the only thing would be to put Nickie to sleep ... I know (sic) . . . Sad but true . . . Like our favorite Metallica song . . . Ja . . .? She was soo (sic) loyal and obidient (sic). Anyways if so can she be buried outside of Mass. . ? Making sure that Nickie will be 10 feet down and do not forget the cement thing. Also I'd like to know if Candy would be able to see the family if not she must stay with Nickie down there . . .

10. Following receipt of the letter, at ATF's direction, the CW told VASCO that the hit man "Mike" would be coming to see him at the ECCF and would gain entry by posing as an attorney (the CW told VASCO that "Mike" had a bar card).

11. On April 26, 2005, ATF Special Agent Croke, posing as "Mike," met with VASCO at the ECCF. Only one ECCF investigator was told of the investigation beforehand and of Special Agent Croke's true identity and status. Special Agent Croke was wearing a concealed audio recorder and a separate concealed video recorder. The meeting took place in an inmate/attorney meeting room. A description of significant aspects of the meeting follows.

a. "Mike" stated that he had received VASCO's letter but had some questions about it. VASCO pulled a copy of it from his file, stated that he was "so worried about

sending the letter," and read significant portions of it aloud. It is the same letter as that attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 1.

b. When "Mike" asked who Nickie is, VASCO said, "my wife." He also repeatedly confirmed that he wanted the body buried outside of Massachusetts "because in the future, I don't want somebody to come find her." He also confirmed that the cement was important to keep the body down and that it should be buried ten feet down.

c. VASCO displayed pictures of his daughter and said, "This is the puppy." He further stated that the "puppy" should go to Canada, and from there to his mother in Ecuador.

d. "Mike" showed VASCO photographs of VASCO's wife's house and car, stating that he had been surveilling the premises. VASCO looked at pictures and described for "Mike" how best to get into the house. VASCO said he did not want anything done to his in-laws.

e. "Mike" described another method of disposing of a body which would cause it to ultimately disappear. He stated that the body could be put into an oil drum, which would be drilled with holes and filled with cement, and then dropped into the ocean. In that way, "Mike" stated, the corpse would eventually be eaten. VASCO stated, "I think I

like that idea" and added that he thought that was the "best way."

f. "Mike" told VASCO that the cost of killing VASCO's wife would be \$10,000 and that kidnaping the daughter and getting her to Ecuador would cost another \$10,000. VASCO stated that he was "trying to save family," and then asked "how much" if his daughter was not included. VASCO agreed to pay in periodic installments in addition to providing a money collection he owned that he said was worth \$10,000. VASCO stated that his attorney had custody of the money collection. "Mike" and VASCO agreed that "Mike" would have someone pick the collection up from VASCO's lawyer.

12. On April 28, 2005, Special Agent Croke, posing as "Mike," spoke by telephone to VASCO. The call was recorded by the ECCF, as well as by ATF. In the call, "Mike" and VASCO further refined the arrangements to have a friend of "Mike" pick up the money collection from VASCO's lawyer. During the conversation, "Mike" asked VASCO if he still wanted to go forward with the "construction project," which was another code for the plan to murder VASCO's wife. VASCO replied, "Just go ahead. Absolutely. Green light."

13. On April 29, 2005, ATF Special Agent Stephanie Schafer, acting in an undercover capacity as a friend of

"Mike" named "Stephany Bears," met with VASCO's attorney at the attorney's law office. "Stephany" obtained an envelope filled with 59 different paper currencies from assorted countries and two cardboard sheets with assorted coins from different countries taped to the sheets, as described by VASCO in his meeting with Special Agent Croke.

14. After ATF received the money collection, Special Agent Croke, posing as "Mike," spoke to VASCO again by telephone. In the recorded conversation, "Mike" stated that the money collection that "Stephany" had picked up was "a little light," meaning that the collection would not be sufficient to pay for the proposed killing. "Mike" stated that he needed some cash to cover operating expenses. VASCO then stated that his attorney had \$400 of his money, which he would have his attorney give to "Stephany." It was then agreed that "Stephany" would return to the lawyer's office to pick up that money.

15. On May 3, 2005, Special Agent Schafer, posing as "Stephany Bears," returned to VASCO's attorney's office and was given a check payable to "Stephany Bears" in the amount of \$200. The attorney told her that he had prepared the check at VASCO's direction. The attorney also stated that VASCO's brother had originally wired \$480 on behalf of his brother,

but he explained that some of that money had gone for other fees, including \$100 for VASCO's canteen fund and approximately \$150 to reimburse the attorney for money he spent taking collect calls from VASCO and making conference calls to Ecuador.

16. On May 10, 2005, I and others met with VASCO's wife to advise her of ATF's investigation regarding VASCO's efforts to hire someone to kill her. I asked her if she would agree to assist in the investigation by posing for photographs of her supposed murder by the hit man, which photographs would then be shown to VASCO. She agreed. The following day, a makeup artist made up VASCO's wife so that it appeared as if she had been beaten and shot in the head with a small caliber handgun. She then posed lying on the ground, still and unmoving, with eyes closed, in a wooded area adjacent to a body of water and next to a fifty-gallon oil drum. I took a number of digital photographs of her from different angles and distances.

17. On May 16, 2005, Special Agent Croke, posing as "Mike," had another recorded telephone call with VASCO. "Mike" stated that the construction project was in its final stages. VASCO replied, "No pain, no gain." They agreed that "Mike" would come see him the next day to discuss the project

in person, rather than on the telephone.

18. On May 17, 2005, Special Agent Croke, posing as "Mike," returned to the ECCF to meet with VASCO. He was again wearing concealed audio and video recorders and the meeting took place in an inmate/attorney meeting room. A description of significant aspects of the meeting follows.

a. VASCO stated that he would be requesting a speedy trial in his pending case once his wife was killed. He and "Mike" then discussed how his case would be dismissed once the key witness was unable to testify.

b. "Mike" raised the issue of payment again, stating (without resort to code) that the cost of killing VASCO's wife and kidnaping his daughter would be \$20,000. VASCO stated that after he had been released from jail, it would take him a month to make his first payment and that it would take six months to pay off the remaining balance.

c. While continuing to discuss the arrangements, VASCO stated, " I would like, you know, to take care of my business by my own hands, but I'm here. What can I do?"

d. VASCO asked "Mike" if he still planned on using a barrel to dispose of his wife's body in the ocean. At that point, "Mike" told VASCO that the murder had been committed the night before and that VASCO's daughter was currently with

"Stephany," who was "laying low." "Mike" stated that he had put VASCO's wife's body in a fifty-gallon oil drum, drilled holes in it, filled it with rocks and dried cement, and dumped it from a boat off the coast of Maine. He further stated that VASCO's wife had fought ferociously before the murder and was bigger and stronger than he had thought. He told VASCO that just before her death, he ("Mike") told her that this was being done "for Guillermo." During the description of the murder, VASCO was smiling.

e. "Mike" then produced copies of three of the photographs for which VASCO's wife had posed and showed them to VASCO. VASCO pointed at one and asked about the black hole on VASCO's wife's forehead. "Mike" explained that it was a .22 caliber bullet hole. When VASCO subsequently expressed concern that copies of the photographs might be found, "Mike" assured him that he had shredded the printer cartridge and the disk containing the photographs and would destroy all the copies.

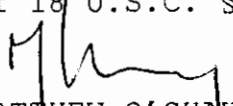
f. There was extended discussion about the arrangements for "Stephany" to travel to Ecuador to deliver VASCO's daughter to his mother. "Mike" stated that she would likely be delivered on the following Saturday or Sunday (i.e., May 21 or 22, 2005). VASCO said that his mother would meet

his daughter at the airport in Quito and that she would be holding a sign reading, "Julia." He provided "Mike" with a photograph of his mother. He subsequently wrote out a note in Spanish and asked "Mike" to call his mother and read the note to her. The purpose of the note was to advise VASCO's mother of the daughter's probable arrival in Ecuador on May 22, 2005.

g. At the conclusion of the meeting, "Mike" stated, "So this is a good day for you. Everything is moving forward." VASCO replied, "Yeah. Finally, it's the final stage and you did a good job. I just wish I could see that, I mean be there." When "Mike" then said, "I made sure she realized it was from you," VASCO said, "Thank you. I appreciate it. And you have my friendship, my loyalty, my respect."

17. Based on the foregoing, there is probable cause to believe that Guillermo Frederico VASCO used the mail and a facility of interstate commerce with intent that a murder be committed in violation of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and as consideration for the receipt of, and promise and agreement to pay, money and other items of

pecuniary value, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1958(a).


MATTHEW O'SHAUGHNESSY
Special Agent
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco
Firearms and Explosives

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this third day of
June, 2005





LEO T. SOROKIN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

EXHIBIT 1

Hi HONNEY !!!
 How You Guys Doing?
 Thank You For SENDING THOSE PICTURES OF HOME.
 I'M DIEYIENG TO SEE OUR FAMILY IN UJUNG PANDANG.
 GLAD TO SEE OUR PARENTS TOGETHER I HAVE TO TELL U
 THAT EVERYTHING IS OK UPHERE. IT'S SPRING AND
 THE BLOSSOMS ARE DRIFTING OFF. THIS TIME I'LL PICK UP
 THE RIGTH FLOWER... I'VE HEARD THAT OUR FRIENDS AND
 THEIR DADDY NICKIE WILL TAKE A TRIP DOWN THERE. AH?
 THAT WOULD BE GREAT IF YOU COULD HELP THEM. BUT
 NICKIE IS VERY OLD AND SICK. SHE WON'T SURVIVE
 SUCH TRIP... THE ONLY THING WOULD BE TO PUT NICKIE
 TO SLEEP... I KNOW... SHE BUT TRULY... LIKE
 OUR FAVORITE METALLIC SONG... JA? SHE WAS
 SO LOYAL AND OBIDIENT. ANYWAYS IF SO CAN SHE
 BE BURIED OUT SIDE OF MASS? MAKING SURE THAT
 NICKIE WILL BE IN FEET DOWN AND DO NOT FORGET
 THE CEMENT THING. ALSO I'D LIKE TO KNOW IF
 CANDY WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THE FAMILY IF NOT
 SHE MUST STAY WITH NICKIE DOWN THERE...?
 OH... WILL BE THE CAR RECYCLABLE...?
 I WISH THERE IS A BETTER CHOICE. WILL BE HIGH
 MARK NICKIE'S... I PROMISE YA... OK?
 IN THE OTHER HAND I'LL SEND YA THE MONEY
 COLLECTION THAT I MENTIONED. REMEMBER
 THAT IT'S VALUE MARK THEM FIVE THOUSAND
 DOLLARS BUT YOU CAN KEEP IT FOR ONE
 OK? ANYWAY I'M SENDING YOU THIS BEAUTIFUL
 FLOWER JUST NEEDS TO BE PRINTED... COULD
 YOU HELP ME OUT. IT NEEDS SOME COLOR...
 TO NOT WORRY ABOUT ME. I'M NOT GOING TO DO OR
 TO SAY ANYTHING STUPID. YOU GOT MY WORD, FRIENDSHIP
 AND LOVE FOR EVER... OK? RIGHT NOW I WANT TO GO
 SHOPPING AND I DO NOT WANNA MISS THE BUS AGAIN..
 ALWAYS SAY HI TO THE FAMILY AND BE VERY
 CAUTIOUS WITH YOUR STUDIES UP THERE.
 YOURS TRULY

Criminal Case Cover Sheet

U.S. District Court - District of Massachusetts

Place of Offense: _____ Category No. II Investigating Agency ATF

City Middleton Related Case Information:

County Essex Superseding Ind./ Inf. _____ Case No. _____
Same Defendant _____ New X
Magistrate Judge Case Number _____
Search Warrant Case Number _____
R 20/R 40 from District of _____

Defendant Information:

Defendant Name Guillermo Frederico Vasco Juvenile ☐ Yes ☒ No

Alias Name _____

Address Essex County Correctional Facility

Birth date (Year only): 1975 SSN (last 4 #): _____ Sex M Race: H Nationality: Ecuadoran

Defense Counsel if known: _____ Address: _____

Bar Number: _____

U.S. Attorney Information:

AUSA James Lang Bar Number if applicable _____

Interpreter: ☐ Yes ☒ No List language and/or dialect: _____

Matter to be SEALED: ☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ Warrant Requested ☐ Regular Process ☒ In Custody

Location Status:

Arrest Date: _____

☐ Already in Federal Custody as _____ in _____

☒ Already in State Custody Essex Cty. Cor. Facility ☐ Serving Sentence ☒ Awaiting Trial

☐ On Pretrial Release: Ordered by _____ on _____

Charging Document: ☒ Complaint ☐ Information ☐ Indictment

Total # of Counts: ☐ Petty _____ ☐ Misdemeanor _____ ☒ Felony 1

Continue on Page 2 for Entry of U.S.C. Citations

☒ I hereby certify that the case numbers of any prior proceedings before a Magistrate Judge are accurately set forth above.

Date: June 3, 2005

Signature of AUSA: _____

District Court Case Number (To be filled in by deputy clerk): _____

Name of Defendant Guillermo Frederico Vasco

U.S.C. Citations

	<u>Index Key/Code</u>	<u>Description of Offense Charged</u>	<u>Count Numbers</u>
Set 1	<u>18 U.S.C. § 1958(a)</u>	<u>Use of Mail to Solicit Murder</u>	<u>1</u>
Set 2	_____	_____	_____
Set 3	_____	_____	_____
Set 4	_____	_____	_____
Set 5	_____	_____	_____
Set 6	_____	_____	_____
Set 7	_____	_____	_____
Set 8	_____	_____	_____
Set 9	_____	_____	_____
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Set	_____	_____	_____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

AFFIDAVIT OF MATTHEW O'SHAUGHNESSY

I, Matthew O'Shaughnessy, being duly sworn, state:

1. I am a Special Agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF") in Boston, Massachusetts and have been so employed for more than five and a half years. This affidavit is submitted in support of a criminal complaint charging Guillermo Frederico VASCO (DOB: 2/1/75) with using the mail and telephone to solicit the commission of a murder, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1958.

2. This affidavit is based on my personal knowledge, information provided to me by other ATF agents and law enforcement officers, as well as information provided to me by a cooperating witness ("CW"). This affidavit is not intended to set forth all of the information that I and other law enforcement personnel have learned during this investigation, but rather consists of that information necessary to provide the requisite probable cause.

3. VASCO is currently incarcerated as a pretrial detainee at the Essex County Correctional Facility ("ECCF") in Middleton, Massachusetts. He is awaiting trial in connection with a pending case in Salem Superior Court, in which he is charged with aggravated kidnaping, aggravated rape, and home invasion. The victim of the alleged offenses is his estranged

wife. VASCO, who is a citizen and national of Ecuador, has been in custody at the ECCF for nearly a year.

4. The CW is also a pretrial detainee at the ECCF. He is the subject of a pending case in United States District Court in which he is charged with conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance. He has a lengthy record of prior convictions for various criminal offenses, including assaults, larceny, breaking and entering, and drug offenses. For his cooperation in the instant investigation, the CW hopes to obtain a more lenient sentence in his pending federal case.

5. On March 22, 2005, I interviewed the CW at the ECCF. At that time, he provided the following information to me.

a. In the first week of February 2005, while VASCO was discussing his pending criminal case with the CW, VASCO asked if the CW knew anyone who would be willing to kill VASCO's wife for money. The CW responded that he knew people who would do it.

b. Over the next couple of weeks, VASCO became increasingly adamant about wanting to have his wife murdered. The CW told VASCO that he should make a definite decision about whether he wanted his wife murdered or not and then he (the CW) would contact his friends.

c. During the course of their conversations, VASCO

initially stated that he wanted his wife to totally disappear, and he asked about having her burned. The CW told him that he did not think that could be accomplished because his friends did not have access to an incinerator. VASCO emphasized that he did not want his wife's body to be found by turning up on the shore of a lake or ocean or by being found by a jogger in the woods. The CW stated that his friends were experienced and would bury his wife in a six-foot hole. VASCO responded that they would have to bury his wife at least five or six meters deep and cover her with concrete before filling in the hole with dirt. He also stated that money should be taken from her bank account and that her car should be made to disappear, so that it would appear as if his wife had gone on vacation. VASCO also stated that he wanted the CW's friends to kidnap VASCO's young daughter and take her to other family members outside of the United States.

d. The day after VASCO attended a "separation hearing" in court on March 9 or 10, 2005, VASCO told the CW that his mind was made up and the CW should call his friends to arrange for the murder. VASCO also said that if the CW's friends could not kidnap VASCO's daughter and deliver her to VASCO's mother in Ecuador, his daughter "should suffer the same fate" as his wife.

6. Following my interview of the CW on March 22, 2005, an investigative strategy was developed by ATF. It called for the CW to introduce VASCO to ATF Special Agent Kenneth Croke, posing as a hit man friend of the CW named "Mike." Pursuant to the plan, the CW was to first tell VASCO about "Mike," stating that he lived in Portland, Maine. The CW was to direct VASCO to send a letter to "Mike's" supposed post office box in Portland, which was in fact the address of an ATF undercover post office box, telling "Mike" what he wanted to have done.

7. In late March 2005, I communicated those instructions to the CW. He subsequently advised me that he had spoken to VASCO about "Mike" and had provided him with "Mike's" Portland post office box address. The CW related to me that VASCO had given him several handwritten pages of notes containing information about VASCO's wife and her family members and friends, as well as hand-drawn maps of the basement and first-floor of her house and photographs of its exterior. The CW sent those documents to ATF, which are further itemized and described as follows:

a. one handwritten page bearing VASCO's wife's name, address, social security number, date of birth, home and cell telephone numbers, two possible work addresses, and a

description of her car and its license and VIN numbers;

b. one handwritten page providing names, addresses, and descriptive information about VASCO's wife's parents, siblings, and two best friends;

c. one hand-drawn floor plan of the first-floor of VASCO's wife's house, showing the location of the front and back doors;

d. one hand-drawn floor plan of the basement of VASCO's wife's house, showing the location of an exterior door; and

e. one photocopy of two photographs of the exterior of VASCO's wife's house.

8. The CW also advised me that he and VASCO had devised a code for speaking about the prospective murder of VASCO's wife. She would be referred to as a dog named Nickie and her daughter was to be referred to as Nickie's puppy named Candy.

9. The CW subsequently informed me that VASCO had written a letter that he was going to send to "Mike" at the post office box in Portland, Maine, and that he had showed the letter to the CW. On April 7, 2005, ATF received the letter at the undercover post office box in Portland. A copy of the letter is attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 1. In it,